

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR MOPS PINS EAID SREF VS VN SW

SUBJ: REFUGEES IN VIETNAM

REF: STOCKHOLM 1512; STATE 74231

1. AS THE NVA OFFENSIVE HAS PROGRESSED DOWN THROUGH MILITARY REGIONS 1 AND 2 VAST NUMBERS OF REFUGEES HAVE BEEN GENERATED THROUGH THE EFFORT BY PEOPLE TO AVOID THE NVA FORCES. THIS EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE TO ESCAPE THE NVA CONTINUES; HOWEVER, MANY THOUSANDS ARE BEING FORCIBLY PREVENTED BY THE COMMUNISTS FROM MOVING TO NON-COMMUNIST AREAS. INDEED, THIS NVA EXERCISE OF FORCE AGAINST THE FLEEING REFUGEES HAS RESULTED IN THE MAIMING AND DEATH OF COUNTLESS WOMEN, CHILDREN AND DEFENSELESS CIVILIANS. THIS AMOUNTS TO A STARK DENIAL OF ARTICLES 13 AND 14 OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. IN RVN MILITARY REGION 1 PRIOR TO THE FALL OF DANANG, THE NVA OFFENSIVE HAD CAUSED AN ESTIMATED 700,000 TO 1,500,000

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PERSONS (OF AN APPROXIMATE 3,000,000 POPULATION OF MR-1)

TO BECOME REFUGEES, PRINCIPALLY IN THE DANANG AREA. THIS NUMBER INCLUDES MOST OF THE POPULATION OF QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN PROVINCES, MANY FROM RURAL QUANG NAM, AND QUANG TIN, AND A SMALLER PERCENTAGE FROM QUANG NGAI. OF THESE, APPROXIMATELY 100,000 WERE EVACUATED TO SOUTHERN AREAS, AND THE OTHERS WOULD COME IF THEY WERE NOT BEING FORCIBLY PREVENTED FROM DOING SO.

3. IN MILITARY REGION 2, THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES PRIOR TO THE FALL OF NHA TRANG AND OTHER COASTAL CITIES WAS ESTIMATED TO BE AT LEAST 500,000. ONLY ABOUT 100,000 OF THESE ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE ESCAPED MR-2 BY VARIOUS MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION WITH THE REMAINDER STILL HELD.

4. WE, OF COURSE, HOPE THAT THE GOS WILL MAKE A LARGE CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING IN RELIEF EFFORTS TO ASSIST REFUGEES IN SOUTH VIETNAM. IN MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT THIS WE ALSO HOPE THAT THE GOS BEARS IN MIND THE GROSS AND BRUTAL VIOLATION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BEING PERPETRATED EVERY DAY BY NVA FORCES AGAINST THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

MARTIN

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